

## EMMA LOU WARNER THAYNE



- i **LIVING**
- i **Published author of 13 books**
- i **Professor of English at the University of Utah/Coach of Women's Tennis Team**

Emma Lou Warner Thayne was born to Utah mountains and the need to write about them. Summers during the Great Depression, she and her three brothers lived at the family cabin in the canyon fifteen minutes from downtown Salt lake City. Winters she skied in Utah powder only forty minutes from home. Later, with her husband and five daughters and their families, she boated and skied on the Utah lakes that surround her valley and she fell in love with Southern Utah deserts only hours away.

At the University of Utah, Emma Lou was a part-time instructor of English and coach of women's tennis. She and her partner were ranked #3 nationally in Senior Women's Doubles.

Emma Lou has written poetry, fiction and non-fiction that champions peace, human connections, nature, love of family and friends and spirituality. Her thirteen books have been published and widely anthologized regionally, nationally and internationally. A forthcoming book, *The Wheel of Where, the Mystic Life of a Mormon Matriarch*, speaks of her Mormon roots and belonging to her culture as well as to a world beyond her cloistered upbringing. She says, "The pillars of my faith remain intact with the roof blown blessedly off the structure to reveal a whole skyful of stars."

Emma Lou speaks to women's groups throughout the country. She participates in peace rallies with university students, sponsors women from other countries who seek freedom and writes with unusual insight about diverse "cultural souls."

In an early sonnet used to publicize Utah powder skiing, she now encourages her eighteen grandchildren to watch Olympic skiers and remember to "think parallel, stay all in one, then learn to ski the fall line . . ."

Ski here, my child, not on gentle slopes where the snow is packed and the trail is wide.

Instead, cut through the trees where no one's tried the powder.

Push toward the hill and rotate as you rise.

No! The snow-plow holds you back.

It's slow and makes you frightened of your turn.

Think parallel. Stay all in one, then learn to ski the fall line, always down.

Switchback skiers in their caution never know how dropping with the mountain keeps the balance right and rhythm smooth. Don't watch your tips at all!

Look past them at the deep white snow, virgin as light, and yours. Just bend, release.

You, gravity, and white, will make your peace.

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

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